

# LETTER

FROM

Monfieur de CROS,

(Who was an Embaffador at the Treaty of  
*Nimeguen*, and a Resident at *England*, in  
K. *Charles* the Second's Reign.) To the  
Lord —

BEING AN

# ANSWER

TO

Sir W<sup>m</sup> TEMPLE's

# MEMOIRS,

Concerning what passed from the Year 1672,  
until the Year 1679.

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## LONDON,

Printed for Abel Roper at the Mitre, near  
Temple-Bar, 1693.

## A LETTER from Mons. de Cros, &amp;c.

*My Lord,*

**I** Have been informed of the Calumnies that Sir *W. T.* hath caused to be Printed against me. I know very well that Sir *W.* is of great Worth, and deserves well; and that he hath been a long time employed, and that too upon important occasions; but I am as certain, that he had but a small share in the Secrecy of the late King *Charles's* Designs in the greatest part of the Affairs, for which he was employed, from 72, till 79, which is the main Subject of his Work.

This Consideration alone might not perhaps have given me the curiosity, or at least, any great earnestness to read his Memoirs; and I might have very well judged that I could draw from them no sufficient light and insight for the discovery of so many Intrigues.

Nay besides, I might have doubted whether or no these Memoirs might not have been his own Panegyrick upon himself, and the diminution and undervaluing of the real Worth and Glory of several Persons of Quality, and distinguished by their Merit; whose Fortune and Reputation Sir *W. T.* hath so much envied: for I am particularly acquainted with Sir *W's* Pride. He looks upon himself to have the greatest Reach, to be the wisest

wisest and ablest Politician of his Time; and a man may perceive abundance of Satyrical Reflexions scattered here and there in his Work against most illustrious Persons, and that he hath stuffed his Memoirs with his own Praise, and the fond over-weening Opinion he hath of himself.

Without doubt this is quite different from that Sincerity and Modesty which reigns throughout the Memoirs of *Villeroy*, in the Negotiations and Transactions of *Jeanin*, in the Letters of *Card. Dossat*, those mighty and truly eminent Persons, esteemed as such by the greatest Princes of their Age; and even still are to this day, by the ablest Politicians, with much more Justice and Glory than Sir *W's* Book-Seller styles him, *One of the Greatest Men of this Age*. It had been Sir *W's* duty to have regulated himself according to their most excellent Pattern.

I shall at present only quote one Passage, which I accidentally light on at the first opening his Book, whereby one may easily guess at the greatness of his presumption; in a short time, *My Lord*, I shall give you occasion to observe many others. *The Negotiations*, saith he, *that I managed and transacted at the Hague, at Brussels, at Aix la Chapelle, which saved Flanders from the French Clutches, in 68. made People believe I had some Credit and Reputation amongst the Spaniards, as well as in Holland.*

'Twas a Piece of strange Ingratitude of the *Hollanders* and *Spaniards*, as well as of his own dear Country-men, so much concern'd for the preservation of *Flanders*, not to rear him a Statue, which, he saith, some-where else, *Mr. Godolphin*

had promised him. Could Sir *W. T.* have done any thing to deserve it more ; or was there any thing more worthy of Triumph than to have preserved *Flanders*, a Country so important to the *Spaniard*, and the only Bulwark of *Holland* and *England*? But Sir *W.* was apt to believe he could not find any one who was better able to hammer out his own Glory than himself ; and he flattered himself with the Opinion that he should erect himself as many Statues, as there are places in his *Memoirs*, crouded with intolerable and ridiculous Vain-glory.

It was not the Negotiations, my Lord, that Sir *W.* tells us he managed at the *Hague*, *Brussels*, and at *Aix la Chappelle*, which saved *Flanders* from the hands of the *French*, in 1668. The *French* published that they were beholding to the most Christian Kings Moderation for that Peace ; who was willing to put a stop to the progress and course of his victorious Arms. But the truth of it is, they most justly ascribed all the Merit, and all the Glory of the Peace, and of the Triple League, to the generous resolution and stedfastness of the States-General. They made use, upon this occasion, of a Minister of State far beyond Sir *W.* in Prudence, Experience, and Capacity, one, who was in the Opinion even of his Enemies, the most able Manager of Affairs of his Age.

I shall not undertake, my Lord, in this place, strictly to examine Sir *W. Temple's Memoirs*: I will do it shortly if God spare me with Life ; nay, and I promise you a Volume of Remarks, at least, as large as his Book.

If, like him, I had the Vanity to procure the printing of *Memoirs*, during my life-time, I could now have a fair pretence so to do, and without all question



tion I should publish more just and solid ones than his are. Not, that I have the presumption to judge my self more capable to do it ; but, in several places he relates some things falsely, whereof I am much better informed. The only Hero of my piece shall be Truth, without Complaisance or Flattery ; without Passion, no not so much as against him : So that I shall do him the satisfaction and kindness to instruct him better, even touching divers Matters, which he performed and executed, without knowing so much as the reason why he was made to act so.

It is not likewise, because I have been one of the Council of the King his Master ; yet I have had the Happiness, during some Years, to partake in the Confidence of a Minister of State, who was in several important, weighty Occasions, as it were the *Primum Mobile* of that Conduct and Management that surprized all the World. You know, my Lord, what Credit he had, and of what nature his Intelligences were. Sir W. may well imagine that I did not ill improve this able Ministers Confidence, when Sir W. tells us, *That I had wholly devoted my self to him.*

Men are not ignorant likewise, that oftentimes I have had some access to the King's Ministers of State, and even near to the King himself, ; it did more especially appear, in the business for which I took my Journey to *Nimeguen* ; and it would be a great shame that a Man *more cunning and subtil than them all*, according to the King's own Testimony, as Sir W. relates it, should not have had (considering so much freedom of access and easiness) the address and cunning to dive into the most hidden Springs of Deliberations and Resolutions, wherein the *Swede* and my Master had so great an Interest.

Be

Be therefore assured, my Lord, that after my Death, nay perhaps, whilst I am alive, if need require, and if I be obliged thereto, there will appear some Memoirs, which will divulge some Matters the truth whereof is still so carefully concealed, Sir *W.* doth ingeniously confess that hitherto he was ignorant of them; He, who hath so much quickness of Penetration, and seems to make us believe that he was the King his Master's Confident.

You your self, my Lord, have often urged me to acquaint you with such important Secrets, and of such great Consequence; and altho' I could not possibly refuse, upon the account of that honour you do me to afford me any share in your Favours, to let you have a glympse of one part of what pass'd in one of the most important Negotiations of that time; yet you had so much Generosity as not to take the advantage of it you might have done, to the infallible ruine, as was believed, of a Minister whom you take for one of your greatest Enemies; yet on this occasion one could not well lay any thing to his charge, besides his blind obedience to the Will of his Master.

The Truth of it is, I am not obliged to have the same Considerations that withheld me at that time, but yet I preserve a profound respect for the Memory of the late King, and also a great respect for some Persons, who are even at this time of the day so much concerned, that I should hold my tongue, if it were not for that reason, it would be a very easie matter for me, to make appear without any more adoe, how basely Sir *W.* is mistaken in what he delivers concerning divers Negotiations of *England*; and especially concerning my Journey to *Nimueghen*.  
My

My Design is not at all, my Lord, to write you a Letter full of Invectives against Sir *W.* I shall not descend to the Particulars of his Behaviour, and shall tell you no more of them at present, than what is needful to let your self and every body else judge that I have means in my hand to be revenged for the Injury he hath done me.

They will be without doubt more just Invectives, than those that he fills his Book withal. He set upon me first. He writes out of a Spirit of Revenge, with a great deal of Heat and Passion, and like a Man that believ'd himself touch'd and wrong'd to the purpose. As for my part, my Lord, I protest I write to you in cold Blood, I do so much scorn the Injury that Sir *W.* affects to do me, that I should but laugh at it, if my silence was not able to persuade you, and those persons whose esteem of me doth do me so much honour, that I have but small care of my reputation.

Sir *W.* hath shined a long time, 'tis true; but yet he hath borrowed all his Splendour first of all from the protection of a Lord, whom he betray'd at last, of whom he speaks too insolently in his Memoirs, and with abundance of Ingratitude; and then again he advanced himself by the protection of certain other persons to whom he was devoted, to the prejudice of his bounden Duty: *He did so well insinuate himself* (that I may make use of the Terms he makes use of in speaking of me) into the Favours and into the Confidence of those, near to whom it was necessary for him to have access, that he might have been in a capacity to render considerable Services to the King his Master, and to his Country, if so be he had made better use of this advantage;  
but

but he kept it just after the same manner as he had got it; that is to say, that he often came short of exact Faithfulness and Loyalty, which a Minister of State is obliged to maintain inviolably even in the least Matters, that doth plainly appear in his Memoirs.

The late King of *England* perceived it, and was so far convinced of it, that he never made use of him in the last Commissions he committed to his charge, to the States-General; but only out of Consideration of the Acquaintance he had there, who made people conjecture that Sir *W.* might have some Credit amongst the *Spaniards*, as well as in *Holland*, as he himself assures us he had.

Neither was he employed, but only upon some Occasions, wherein one would not employ a Man who was a Favourite of the Prince, or for whom he had any value, or in whom he might confide; 'tis a Truth owned and confess'd by Sir *W.* himself in his Memoirs; and a Man may judge of it by the so opposite false steps, that he complains, they caused him to make, and by all the things that were done contrary to the Measures that he had taken, just as if the Court had had a mind to expose him.

Besides, the King slighted him after the Peace at *Nimeguen*, and laid him aside, making very little use of him; it was not, what he would make us believe, his love for his own ease, and his Indispositions of body, that made him decline his Employments. Never did Man desire more to have an hand in Affairs; he was removed by reason of the King's secret dissatisfaction at his Services, by that Conduct and Management, which in executing the King's Orders, when they were contrary to his Opinion, and disliking to his Friends, smelt very much like perfidiousness



business and Treachery, as may principally appear in whatsoever he did for to evade and frustrate the King's Orders, contained in the dispatch I left with him at the *Hague*, to *Nimeguen*, for the conclusion of the Peace, by Order of his Majesty.

It is concerning this business that has made so great a noise for which Sir *W.* takes occasion to reproach me, that I am going to relate you some Particulars in the Reflections, that I am obliged to make upon what he says concerning my self. Do not expect, my Lord, that I should teach you here the true Cause of so extraordinary a Resolution which so much surprized Sir *W.* with which Pensioner *Fagel* was so much astonished, and which in Sirs *W.*'s opinion did entirely change the Fate of *Christendom*.

I should please him very much, if I should discover so important a Secret, in which many persons in the late and present Reigns have been concerned. I do not doubt but Sir *W.* extremely desires it; he knows very well the greater knowledge of these Practices would perhaps raise a great deal of trouble in the Parliament to some people, whose Ruine he desires at the bottom of his Heart, being little concerned for the reputation of the late King, and envious of the esteem of those that protected him, and who have bestowed so many favours upon him.

As for my self at this Conjunction, in which *K. William* endeavours the repose of *Christendom*, and the Happiness of *England* with so much Zeal and Glory, I will not stir up the envy and hatred which has too much appeared in *England*; and, which may perhaps be a great Obstacle to that Union which is so necessary to the happy Execution of the Undertakings of this great Monarch.

B

There

There arrived, said Sir *W.* *at that time from England, one whose name was de Cros.* I shall not stop, my Lord, upon this Term of Contempt, *One called;* it is a very malicious Expression, in respect of my self; the late King of *England* himself did me the Honour to treat me in Passports, in his Letters, in his Commissions which he charged me with: It is very impudent and rude to speak so of a Man, who is of a good Family, who has had the honour of being employed for almost twenty years, and whom a great Prince and a King have not disdain'd to use as Councillor of State.

*He was (continues Sir W.) a French Monk who had lately quitted his Frock for a Petticoat.* Here is a reproach which ill becomes an Ambassador of a Monarch, who is Defender of the Faith, and of the Protestant Religion; of one who declared so openly at *Nimeguen*, that he would have nothing to do with the Pope's *Nuntio*. I do not know, my Lord, that it is a disgrace to be a Monk; and much less, to have been one formerly: There are indeed amongst them, as well as amongst the rest of Mankind, some miserable Wretches, of a mean Birth, and of a disorderly and infamous Life; People of no use, without Honour, and without Reputation: Sir *W. T.* thought, without doubt, that I was of that Number; but there are likewise several very famous for the Sanctity of their Lives, of an extraordinary Merit, and of the greatest Quality, Sons of Princes and Kings, and Kings themselves, and Popes: But if this sort of Life is not now, as formerly it was, so certain a Character of a good and honest Man, do's Sir *W.* think he can dishonour me, in reproaching me for leaving a Profession which himself thinks

thinks so contemptible, for a *Petticoat*?

It will not be material in this place to say how I was engaged therein in my tender years. There is nothing more usual in *France, Spain* and *Italy*, where ancient Houses do sacrifice a good part of their Families in Monasteries; 'tis a Maxim, to say the truth, most cruel and horrid.

Neither will I relate how, and after what manner I came out of it; however, it was not for a *Petticoat*. I have remained several years without so much as having any inclination to it; and it hath been apparent that I have had much a-do, and was very much unresolved as to this Choice.

There was too great advantage to throw off my Frock for the *Petticoat* that I have taken, not to do it. It is a *Petticoat* of a *Scorch* Stuff, and which hath been a greater Ornament, and done the Crown of *England* more good than Sir *W.* himself; if he do not know it, the History of *England* and *Scotland* in these late Times may inform him. I shall enlarge no further, that I may not engage myself to publish the Misfortunes and Disorders of Sir *W.*'s Family; which, I suppose would not be like a Gentleman. I have no reason that I know of, to complain, neither of his Lady, nor his Son, nor of his Daughters.

Besides, had I even cast off the Monk's Habit for a *Petticoat*, I should have done no more than a great many worthy deserving Persons have done; yea, some of the Pope's *Nuncio's*, Cardinals, Bishops, Kings and Princesses too, who have quitted the Veil for the Breeches, whose Posterity, I make no question is highly esteemed and revered by Sir *W.*



*I did so well insinuate my self, saith Sir W. into the Court of Sweden, that I obtained from thence a Commission to be a kind of an Agent in England. That is very dirty. I have had the management of Affairs and the Quality of Envoy, when Sir W. had no more than that of an Agent or Resident at Brussels. I was Envoy at the Court of England before ever I was in Sweden, or before ever I had any acquaintance there.*

*I went the first time to Sweden just at that time the late King of England sent me into Sweden and Denmark, about the beginning of the Year 1676. The Pretence was for to demand the free passage of Letters; which the King of Denmark refused, for hastening the Congress of Nimeguen, in procuring the expedition of Passports, requisite to the Ministers of State who were to compose the Assembly; and also to urge the Departure of the Embassadors belonging to those two Northern Crowns. But now the true Cause was quite another Matter, and of greater consequence; not for the King of England, but indeed for another Potentate.— That shall be made appear some time or other in my Memoirs.*

*Had I been a kind of a Swedish Agent, I should not have defended my self in that Point; I should have held it as a great piece of Honour, since it could not chuse but be very glorious and splendid, to have the Affairs of so great a King, in such important Conjunctions as those were, committed to ones charge and care; but at the very time Sir W. speaks of, I was dignified with the Quality of Envoy Extraordinary from the Duke of Holstein Gottorp, acknowledged and received at the Court of England for such.*

Sir



Sir *W.* knows that very well, there was sent him divers Memoirs to *Nimeguen* whilst the Mediation lasted, which I had delivered in at *London*, concerning the re-settling my Master; but the Interest and Concerns of this Prince were so indifferent to him, that I was fain to beg of my Lord Treasurer to recommend them more particularly to Sir *Leoline Jenkyns*.

Moreover, you may see Sir *W.T.* mentions in his Memoirs all the Potentates that had any interest in the Peace of *Nimeguen*, except the Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*, notwithstanding he had two Ministers at the Congress, and although *France* had stipulated for his re-establishment in the second Article or Condition of the Peace, such who shall peruse the Memoirs of Sir *W.* might be apt to think that the Duke of *Holstein* was reckoned as no body in the World, and that he had no part at all in what pass'd in Christendoom, from the commencing of the War in 1672, until the conclusion of the Peace 1679. But Thanks be to God Sir *W.* is not the Steward of Glory and Immortality.

Sir *W.* therefore must have often read my Name and Character in the Letters, and Orders of the Court, and cannot have forgot that he came to render me a Visit at my Lodgings, at such time as he, by the King's Order, was to confer with me upon what account Monsieur *Olivencrantz* might be obliged to pass from *Nimeguen* into *England*. That *Swedish* Embassador lodg'd at that time in my house.

'Tis true indeed, as the Interests of my Master were inseparable from those of *Sweden*, I found my self engaged to be very much concerned in the Interests of that Crown in whatsoever might depend

depend on my care : There was an Envoy extraordinary from *Sweden* at *London* ; and yet for all that , the *Swedish* Ambassadors did me the Honour to maintain a very regular Correspondence by Letters with me : The King of *England* was also graciously pleased to hear me in what concerned the Affairs of the *Swede*, although I was no otherwise authorized for it. Monsieur *Oliven- crantz*, his Voyage to *London* was contrived first of all by the King and my self, without the least meddling or intervention of any one of his Ministers ; and then again in the Negotiation, whereof my Voyage to *Nineguen* was a Consequence, the Restitution of *Sweden* was especially insisted upon.

All this made many Men believe, that I was intrusted with the Management of the Affairs of this Crown ; and Monsieur *Van Beuninguen* believed it so to be, in the Letter he writ to the Lords States-General, which hath since been printed ; where he speaks with so much uncertainty concerning the Voyage I was about to make to *Nimeguen*, and about this Negotiation, that it was evident it was a very great Secret.

Since his being at *London*, saith Sir *W.* speaking of me, he hath wholly devoted himself to Monsieur *Barillon*, the French Ambassador, under pretence to act for the Interests of *Sweden*. Monsieur *Barillon* was not at that time in *London*, when I was sent thither, he came not thither till a long time after ; I found Monsieur *le Marquis de Ruvisni* there, whom Monsieur *Courtin* succeeded ; and after that Monsieur *Barillon* came to take the place of Monsieur *Courtin*.

I never devoted my self to this Ambassador, and I never

never had any Correspondence or was in League with him prejudicial to my Duty. Nay, it happened the King of *England* one day, having a design more especially to take into Consideration the *Swedish* Interests, Monsieur *de Barillon* diverted him from it; whether for fear lest a particular Peace should be clapp'd up between the *Northern* Crowns, or else out of Jealousie, that he might leave the Glory of the Restitution of this Crown to the King his Master; and depriving it of all other relief, might keep it in the mean time in a greater dependance.

I was so much put to it, and fell out with Mr. *Barillon* so much thereupon, that I did not so much as speak to him in 3 or 4 months; nay, one day as the King was at Dinner I cast in his teeth what had past in the presence of *Monsieur Wachmeister*, Envoy Extraordinary from the King of *Sweden*. I do not question but *Monsieur Wachmeister* remembers it well enough; he is no less worthy to be believed, than he is brave and undaunted.

And now after this manner I became all one with the Ambassador of *France*. But yet I must confess that at such time as he stickled for my Master's Interest and that of the *Swede*, I was intirely devoted to him, thinking my self most happy that I was enabled to pay my most humble Services to such a great Monarch, whose Subject I have the honour to be, without failing in my Loyalty and Allegiance, which I sought to pay him before all others whatsoever.

Whereupon, my Lord, I shall tell you one thing, in which *Monsieur de Ruigni*, at present Lord *Galloway*, cannot but agree with me, no, nor *Monsieur Oliventrantz* neither. The departure of this Ambassador for *England*, occasioned shrewd suspici-

ons both at *Nimeguen* and *London* to the *French Ambassadors*. *Monsieur Barillon* was much alarm'd at it, especially when he saw that *Monsieur Oliven- crantz* lodged at my House, and when he knew that I had offered a Project, upon which I had the Honour sometimes to be in debate with my Lord Treasurer, *Monsieur Barillon* put all in practice to sift him to the bottom; nevertheless all the offers of this *French Ambassador* proved ineffectual, and wrought thing upon this Man; who, if a man would give credit to *Sir W. T.* was intirely devoted to *Mons. Barillon*, and yet *Mons. Barillon* found him not to be corrupted or bribed.

One would think, my Lord, that *Sir W. T.* has a mind to make Men believe, that I was only sent into *Holland* to carry him a Dispatch from the Court; for he is always harping upon this String, when he mentions my Voyage: Yet please to take notice, my Lord, That he confelleth that it was I, who procured this Dispatch.

What means the King then, when he says, That I had been too cunning for them all? There is not so much Prudence and great Abilities required in a Courier; it is sufficient that he be expeditious. But this Message must needs have been Honourable, to employ an Envoy extraordinary of one of the greatest Princes of the Empire, except it be what *Sir W.* hath been pleased to say, That I was so much devoted to the King; yea, and to *Monsieur Barillon* too, and so little tender of my Master's Dignity, that I would comply with any Offices.



If I were a Courier or Messenger, Monsieur T. hath at least done me a good Office, in representing me to be, what I would not have the Confidence to believe my self; namely, that I was an able Messenger, a Courier of the Cabinet, and very deep in the King's Trust and Confidence. For before ever Monsieur T. spoke of this Dispatch, which as he says, the Court sent him, to be kept as a mighty Secret, *Personer Fagel*, says he, *knew all the Contents, and was quite stun'd at it. Du Crois had industriously inform'd the Deputies of the Town, ( 1 Copy from Monsieur T. ) and had told them that the two Kings were intirely agreed on the Conditions of Peace; that he had carried Orders to Monsieur T. to go to Nimeguen, and that at his Arrival there he would find the Letters of my Lord Sunderland, the English Ambassador, at Paris, with all the Articles as they are concluded between the two Crowns.*

Here is, I acknowledge, a very expert Messenger, very knowing in the Secret, and very forward in the work, in 4 or 5 hours time, that I had been at the *Hague*. Monsieur T. will be much more stun'd than Monsieur *Fagel* was, when he shall know hereafter what pass'd at the *Hague*, in that little time that I was there, not having discovered what it really was, neither then, nor since. It was most certainly, something of greater importance than to tell the Deputies of the Town the Contents of the Dispatch, with which I was intrusted. And Monsieur T. will see clearly one day, how far *this only incident did change the Fate of Christendome.*

*I pretend not, adds Monsieur T. to determine by*  
 whose

whose means, and how du Croc, obtained this Dispatch. And a little lower, All that I could learn at Court, about this matter, was, that his Orders were made up one morning, in an hours time, at the Dutcheſs of Portsmouths apartment, by the intervention of Monsieur Barillon.

It's pity, that an English Ambaſſadour, that all the King his Maſter's Council (if one can believe it) that a Man, who if he had pleaſed himſelf, might have been ſeveral times Secretary of State, ſhould be ſo little informed, I will not ſay during his abſence, while he remained at the Hague, and at Nimeguin, but even ſince his return into England, of what paſt there, and chiefly in that very affair, wherein Monsieur T. was more exerciſed than in any other Buſineſs that he ever undertook.

But how he could be know it, ſince neither the Duke of York nor my Lord Treafurer, nor hardly the King himſelf (if we may believe Monsieur T.) knew any thing of it; And that theſe Orders were made in one morning, in an hours time, at the Dutcheſs of Portsmouths Apartment, by the Interception of Monsieur Barillon.

Obſerve now, if you pleaſe, my Lord, the Malice of Monsieur T. in Relation to Monsieur Williamſon, on whom he would give in this place, the Character of Perfidy; as he hath done in divers other parts of his Memoirs. Monsieur T. ought to have had at leaſt, ſome reſpect for the King, whoſe Orders Monsieur Williamſon did Execute.

He never talks of it, ſays Monsieur T. to the Secretary of State Williamſon, as if he would ſay that

that he was sufficiently perswaded that Monsieur *Williamson* was a Man altogether for *France*, and that he was intirely devoted, as well as my self, to Monsieur *Barillon*, and that he was the Author of this Dispatch.

Is it not clear that Monsieur *T.* would make us imagine that Monsieur the *Chevalier Williamson*, Secretary of State, the *French* Ambassader, and the *Dutchess of Portsmouth* promised these Orders. As for me, tho' I had the Dispatch given me, yet he does not accuse me openly in this place of bearing any other part in this Affair, than only as a Messenger entrusted with the Conveyance. And not only so, but I never went to the *Dutchess of Portsmouths* Lodgings, she having an irreconcilable aversion for me, and I for her.

Can there be a greater absurdity than this? To endeavour to perswade his Readers that the most important affair of that time, on which depended (says Monsieur *T.*) *The Fate of Christendom* was concluded and made up, in one hours time, in the apartment of the *Dutchess of Portsmouth*, by the Intervention of Monsieur *Barillon*.

Monsieur *T.* is accustomed so little to spare the King's Reputation, that he fears not on this occasion, to prostitute it, in a strange manner. He does not only charge him with partiality and connivance, in suffering *Valentiennes*, *Cambray*, *St. Omer*, and several other places in *Flanders*, to be taken, without Murmur or Opposition; But the King of *England* obliged as much as could be, in the Quality of a Mediator, and more through the Interest of his Kingdoms to procure the Repose of *Christendom*, yet corrupted by the *French* Ambassadors, and by

the Charms of a Mistress, Sacrifices all Europe, and his own Estate, to a Power that is naturally an Enemy to England. And this without Ceremony, in an hours time, without the advice of his Council, and hides himself in the Apartment of a Woman, as if he was sensible that he went about an action the most unworthy of the Majesty of a Prince, and the most opposite to the Felicity of his People that could be. For what other Construction can any one make of what Monsieur T. says, and can any man conclude, otherwise when he reads this worthy passage in his Memoirs ?

Certain it is, that this Dispatch was made up by Monsieur *Williamson*, and by the Kings Order. And since the King was pleased to avoid opening his mind hereon to Monsieur T. giving him no other answer, but that I had been *more cunning than all of em* ; Monsieur T. might possibly Address himself to Monsieur *Williamson*, who, it may be, might tell him, *by whose means, and how Du Croix had obtained this Dispatch.*

It is plain that Monsieur T. despairs of penetrating into this Affair ; that he knows not where about he is when he speaks of it ; and that he only seeks to blacken the Reputation of the King and his Ministers. If the Peace of *Aix la Chapelle* is his Favorite, because he hath the Vanity to believe it to be intirely his own work ; 'tis easie seen that the Peace of *Nimiguen* is his Aversion, because he is ashamed to have had so small a Part in it as he had, and that the most glorious part of his Life is not to be found in that Negotiation.

I would have this Complaisance for Monsieur T. though he treats me so ill ; I would, at least, in some  
part,



part, draw him out of this great uncertainty, on the subject of the Dispatch which I brought him.

He is deceived, when he imputes this Resolution to the Intrigues and Persuasions of *France*. It was neither managed, nor taken, nor dispatched, at the Ditchels of *Portsmouth's*; nor was it by the means or intervention of *Monsieur Barillon*. That Ambassador had no part in it, but on the very instant when the affair was concluding. He was not so much as present at the Expedition, as he had not been at any time at the Deliberations. The Marquis of *Ruvigny*, the Son, carried the first News to the King, his Master, the same day that I parted for *Nimeguen*. *Monsieur Williamson* knew well what was contained in the Dispatch to *Monsieur T*, in which there was nothing very mysterious. But he was never privy to the secret of the Negotiation, and tho' he was present when I took my leave of the King in *Secretary Coventry's Office*, yet he was then ignorant of the true subject of my Voyage, and perhaps he never knew it.

The King was not at all precipitate, and the affair was not concluded and dispatched in an hours time. It was treated on, and deliberately considered near Three weeks. There was time given to the Ambassadors of *Swedenland* to resolve themselves, and make their Answer. The King's design was doubtless aimed for the good of *Europe*, and the publick tranquillity; but in truth, he had not in his Eye, nor did he certainly believe that happy Fate of *Christendome*, for which *Monsieur T* labours so earnestly in concert with some particular Persons, Enemies to the State, Seditious, and Disturbers of the Publick Repose.

But

But the King said pleasantly, adds Monsieur T. that the Rogue (Coquin) du Croix had outwitted them all. If Monsieur T. had not made the King say this, and had said it himself, I might have applied to him, with as much Justice as any man in the World, these Verses, which I have read somewhere,

*Coquin, he calls me, with mighty disdain,*

*Doubtless, I should answer Monsieur T. thus,*

*Seek your Coquin self where you're one your self. But*

the Person of Kings is sacred. Besides, Can that be an abuse, which is spoken pleasantly, without the least design perhaps of offending. For *Coquin* is a word which the late King of England often used, when he spoke of People for whom he had notwithstanding Respect and Consideration. 'Tis true, he used the word also very familiarly, when he was angry, but at such times he spoke with indignation, and not pleasantly.

The Parliament presented an Address to the King (as Monsieur T. reports) in which they represented the Progress of the French Arms; and desired him to stop it before it became more dangerous to England; and the other Neighbouring Countries. *Du Bernard de Salinas* (continues Monsieur T.) said to certain Members of the Commons, that this Address had so exasperated the King, that he said those who were the Authors of it were a Company of *Coquins*.

I remembered at my Arrival in England, in 1675, before I was to go into France in Quality of an Envoy, whither I acknowledge his most Christian Majesty would not permit me to come, either because they had informed him that I had embraced the Protestant Religion, or it may be because the

King

King of France would not receive his own Subjects, in the Quality of Ministers of other Princes. It happened, I say, that the King of England ( to whom also I had a Commission ) bid the *Marquiss of Ruvigny*, one Evening, bring me to his Cabinet, and himself come in with me.

The King enquired of me, at the first, what news I could tell him of the Condition of the *Swedes* Army in *Pomerania*, through which I past, and expressed much concern that the *Constable Wrangle*, not minding to pass forward into the Empire (as *Monsieur T.* says) had thereby different pretences, had attacked the *Elector of Branderburg* as vigorously and with as much success as he could. I told the King the reason, which concerns not my present subject to report here.

Afterwards, I having informed the King of the State of Germany, the King believing that I was to pass into France, spoke to me in these very words. *Monsieur, tell the King, my Brother, that it is much against my mind that I have made Peace with these Coquins, the Hollanders, Monsieur the Marquiss of Ruvigny, who stands here, knows it well.*

Sometime before the making of this Peace, the King talking with *Monsieur de Shrenborn* Envoy from *Mayence*, told him also, in Relation to the *Hollanders*, *In a little time, Monsieur, I will bring these Coquins to Reason.* *Monsieur de Barillon* writ to the Count d' *Avaux*, the French Ambassador at the *Hague*, certain Discourses which the King had concerning the *Hollanders*. The Count d' *Avaux* made use of this to encrease the just Suspitions of the *Estates*. He carried the Letters of *Monsieur Barillon*, to *Monsieur Fagel*. Whereupon, the States made

made a terrible Complaint, and the King of England laid on this Occasion to the Duke of Lauderdale, that *Monsieur Barillon, and the Count d'Avaux were Coquins*.

Had the King called me *Coquin*, seriously, I ought not to think it any very strange thing; since he hath treated in the same manner the most powerful and wisest Republick of the World, to whom he had so great Obligations; two Ambassadors of his most Christian Majesty, of extraordinary merit, and as honest Men as France ever had; and also the greatest Lords of his own Kingdom who were Authors of the Address which the Commons presented him.

There is also this difference, that the King, speaking of those Lords, those Ambassadors, and the *Hollanders*, he called them *Coquins* in anger, but when he spoke of me, he said it pleasantly (according to Monsieur T.) and that *I was a cunning Coquin, more cunning than the Duke of York, my Lord Treasurer, the Secretary of State Williamson, and even the King himself*.

Either I am much deceived, or all the Ministers of the Confederates that were then at London, would have been all *Coquins* at this rate, and Monsieur Temple himself, and would have deceived those who abused and deceived them. For besides, there is more credit methinks on such like Occasions, to be a *cunning Rogue*, and to pass for a more able Man than the most able Ministers of State, than to be the laughing-stock, and the Fool of a *Monk*, and a sort of Agent; Sir William Temple, and some others, were truly so on this occasion.

But



But I would acquaint Sir *W. Temple* of what he has not perhaps heard of, as he has done the like to me, I do not invent it to revenge my self, and if I would make use of falshoods, I might make recourse to more heinous Affronts; the truth of my Remarks upon his Memoirs, shall be my full satisfaction. What I shall relate may be found in my Letters upon that account to the Prince my Master, and his Ministers: I took no particular care to divulge it immediately to Mounseur *Barillon*, to whom I was so much devoted; were he alive he might witness that as well as the Aversion the King of *England* always bore to Sir *W. Temple*; and the little Esteem he had of him at bottom. Upon my return from *Nimeguen* to *London*, I went immediately to Court, as soon as I came there I meet Prince *Rupert*, who askt me with a sterne Countenance if the Peace was Concluded, I answered him in the Affirmative, upon which he cryed out and said, *O Dissimulation*. After having had the Honour to give his Majesty an account of what was past, I told him of the ill humour I perceived Sir *W. T.* to be in, and what I knew of his neglect of his Majesties Orders; The King seemed very angry with Sir *W.*'s Proceedings, and said, *he was a very impertinent R — to find fault with my Commands.*

But if the late K. of *England*, did not approve of my Conduct in the affairs of *Nimeguen*, which in effect he declared at first in Publick not to be pleased with, in which he play'd his part to admiration: If against his will, I had truly inform'd the several Deputies at the *Hague*, how that the two Kings of *England* and *France* were

intirely agreed upon Conditions of Peace; if this accident changed the Destiny of *Christendom*, and what endeavours soever the English Court had made, there were no ways to repair the Breach. If I was a Fool, a peice of an Agent, or a Knave, How comes it that the King suffer'd me to stay in *England* near a year? nay, as long as my Master thought fit. Why was the King so civil to me? Why did he recompence me for my Voyage from *Nimeguen*? Upon what account did the King bestow several other Favours upon me? How comes it, that I haveing made a great Entertainment and Fireworks, to shew my joy for the Re-establishment of the Duke my Master to his Territories, that the whole Court should do me that Honour as to be present thereat?

It was not my quality of Envoy Extraordinary of the Duke *de Gortorp*, that hindred the King to expresse some kind of resentment against me, and thereupon to bid me avoid the Kingdom. I do well remember the King was just upon the point of making Mounseur *Van Beuningen* Ambassador to the States General, to withdraw and get him out of the Land, because he had got the word *Connivance*, to be foisted into a Memorial he presented to the King, for the recalling of the English Forces, which bore Armes in *France*.

*Don Barnard de Salinas* was the Spanish Envoy; the King made much of him, yea and loved him for the particular care he had in *Flanders* of the education of the E. of *Plym*, one of the Ks. Sons, He did nothing but report up and down, that the King gave the Authors of the Address, presented to his Majesty, by the House of Commons no better

ter name than Rogues. The King had his liberty to reject this Address, as indeed he did, and no ways apprehended the Consequences of it at that time; yet for all that, he banished *Don Bern. de Salinas*, not in the least considering his Character, nor the Kindness wherewith he had always honoured this Minister; Yea and he Banished him too, without any respect to the King of Spain.

But, for me who had abused and deceived the D. of York, My Lord Treasurer, ay, and the K. himself, who had overthrown all those fair and vast Projects, which the Confederates had contrived at London and Nimeguen; and Sir W. T. at the Hague, which had disclosed the Kings dispatches, a master piece of Secrecy, who was the cause of quite changing the Fate of Christendom: for me, I say, against whom the P. of Orange had written, and caused to be written so many thundering Letters, against whom all the Ministers of the Confederates called for Vengeance; against whom Sir W. T. levelled more of his endeavours to destroy me than the Court did to repair this Breach, and patch up the business, it lets me alone, it does not make the least complaint to the Duke my Master, the K. does me a great many favours, and laughs in his Sleeve at the Surprise, at the Sorrow, and Complaints of the Confederates, and Sir W. T.

After all that, can any body reasonably believe that the K. of England might have lookt upon me as a Rogue? And when he told Sir W. T. after a droling manner that I was a Rogue and had outwitted them all, may it not be probable,

that he had a mind to jeer him, and to make him sensible that he was taken but for Fool? It was very like so to be.

I have not gone about, My Lord, to say in this place what I might say, to wipe of all those scandalous impressions that Sir *W. T.* hath such a desire to fasten upon me; I suppose I have given your Lordship sufficiently to understand, that what he hath been pleased to say upon this Theme of me, proceeds from inveterate Spite and Malice.

But, what way is there to get clear of one of the most Haughty, and most Revengeful of men; who in his Memoires falls foul upon the reputation even of the greatest Minister, who casts aspersions on the Duke of *Lauderdale*, that most Zealous, and most Faithful Minister, that ever the King was Master of; on My Lord *Arlington* whom Sir *W.* is bound to respect as his Master, who was his Benefactor, that raised him from his sordid obscurity, and as it were from the *Dunghill*, to bring him into play, This ingreatful person forsooke him, that he might catch at the shadow and appearance of mending his Fortune; he would not have stuck to ruin My Lord *Arlington*, by base indirect means: This is no hard matter to make out, even by Sir *W. T.* his own Memoirs, but yet I am acquainted with some particulars upon this Subject that make my hair stand an end, nay, and I have not only learnt them from My Lord *Arlingtons* own mouth, but also from a noted Minister of those times.

What a piece of impudence to call in question and tax the Principal Ministers, and the soberest Magi-



Magistrates of *Holland*, viz. *Monsieur de Beverning*, *Monsieur Valknier* and others, generally esteemed by every body. To arraign them, I say, some for Avarice, others for Partiality, I had almost said for betraying their Trust. But above all, to give such disadvantageous representations of the E. of *Rocheſter*, and of Sir *Leoline Jenkyns*; that, it would have been all one if he had said, that Sir *Leoline*, was a man of the other World, a plain downright Ideot, void of insight and Experience: And that *Law. Hyde*, now E. of *Rocheſter*, was a Lord altogether unacquainted with, and no ways fit for the employment the King gave him at *Nimeguen*; nevertheless, Sir *Leoline* was made Secretary of State, and no notice at all taken of Sir *W.*

As for *Laurence Hyde*, Sir *W.* speaks first of him, as if he were a Youth, that should have been sent to the University, I plainly perceive, saith he, that the chief design of that Commission was to introduce *Mr. Hyde* into this sort of employment, and to let him understand the manner how the men behave themselves in the same, then he adds, He excused himself out of modesty, to have any thing to do with any Conference, and Compiling Dispatches. Was it out of the respect he owed to Sir *W. T.* or for want of Capacity, that My Lord shewed so much modesty, that he would neither make Dispatches, nor meddle with Conferences, what, he who had been engaged already, as he was afterwards in very important Affairs; who had been Embassadour in the principal Courts of Europe, who was chosen as Chief of the Embasie at *Nimeguen*,

*guen*, one who in all respects is so far above Sir *W. T.* for all these great qualities; yet My Lord, affords Sir *W.* just as much difference, as a petty Scholar does a famous Pedant. And to reward him, Sir *W. T.* would make him pass in the world, for an Embassadour that was but at best his Scholar.

I make account to tell you, what Sir *W.* dare not acknowledge. Mr. *Hyde*, being more subtle, and of greater Abilities than Sir *W.* and of that quality too, that was not to be exposed, would not intermeddle in a Mediation, which was like to suffer so gross Indignities, as the Mediation of *England* suffered at the Treaty of *Nimwegen*. One time or other I shall publish those indignities in my Memoires, together with the weakness, and tameness wherewith they were content to suffer them.

But now, if Sir *W. T.* hath not spared such Illustrious persons as these: No, not so much as My Lord Treasurer, at present Marquis of *Caermarthen*, laying something to his charge, whom also he does not do that right and Justice, which is due to so great a Minister of State, one of the greatest Wits of the Age, for business; a person so Loyal to the King his Master, that he sacrificed himself for his sake; and after all, so full of zeal for his Country, that he hath be-thought himself of all expedients, and hath not feared to expose himself to peril and utter undoing, that he might deliver it from the mischiefs that threaten it; If Sir *W.* hath not spared the Kings person, whose Dignity and Reputation he so often sacrifices, can I hope to escape his foul mouthed Language.

Per-

Peradventure he had better have done something else, & something wiser; great Confident of Princes and Ks. the sole preserver of *Flanders*, as he is, than to have entred the list with a *Monk*, with a kind of an *Agent*, and with a cunning *Knave*. But his desire of revenge hath prevailed, he believes himself cruelly wrong'd, and he is in the right on't, for that at the *Hague* and at *Nimeguen*, which he was confident would be the Theatre of his Glory, they made him act a disgraceful ridiculous part. He imagines I am partly the cause of it, either because that my Voyage to *Nimeguen* might have been the effect of my Negotiation, which he might have gathered by the Kings answer, or, because I might have done nothing in *Holland*, but administer cause of Suspensions and Umbrages, that hasten'd on the Peace, in spite of his Teeth, and Reverse the Treaty he had but lately concluded at the *Hague*.

My Lord, If I be not mistaken, here is another occasion of Sir *W.T.* being vext at me. There was a Treaty a foot between *England* and *Spain*, for which purpose Sir *W.* was employ'd without any other design in reference to *England*, but to abase the Parliament, and no other on the *Spaniards* side, but only to add a little more reputation to their Affairs. Now the Parliament got nothing by it, and the greatest advantage accrued to the Spaniard, who upon this occasion made him really believe it, and so took him for a Cully. A sad acknowledgment for having alone saved *Flanders* for *Spain*! I ridiculed this Treaty, I made observations thereon, that were published

shed in *Holland*; and men judged that the observations were well grounded. After that, and after the business of *Nimeguen*, I was not to expect any Encomiums from so unjust a person as Sir *W. T.* but still he might have writ more like a Gentleman, and have spoken of me without ever losing the respect which he owed to my Master, without doing so great an injury in my person, both to my Name, and Family out of a merry humour, for in whatsoever past, I performed the duty of a Minister, both zealous and most faithful; Nay, and I did nothing but even by concurrence and good liking of the King of *England*.

I beseech you, My Lord, conserve for me the honour of your gracious favour, and be fully perswaded, that I shall be all my life long, with much respect.

Your most humble, &c.

**F I N I S.**



An Advertisement,  
Justly attached in these Memoirs, took  
the first opportunity to justify his proceed-  
ings to the World; and if he found  
them fall out into severe or indecent  
Language, it is to be remembered that he  
was not the first Author, but that his  
Adversary taught him the way. H. H.

## ADVERTISEMENT,

Concerning the  

# Foregoing Letter.

**I**t is now some Months ago since the  
Foreign Journals gave us to under-  
stand, that Monsieur de Crois, the In-  
genious Author of the foregoing Treatise,  
was meditating an Answer to Sir William  
Temple's Memoirs. As nothing more  
sensibly touches us, than to have our  
Reputation wounded by those Persons whom  
we never injured. We are not to admire  
that our Author who thought himself

An Advertisement, concerning  
unjustly attacked in these Memoirs, took  
the first opportunity to justify his proceed-  
ings to the World; and if he some-  
times falls out into severe or indecent  
Language, it is to be remembred that he  
was not the first Aggressor, but that his  
Adversary taught him the way. How  
well M. de Croix has acquitted himself  
in this Affair, I will by no means take  
upon me to determine. Let the Reader,  
without prejudice or partiality, consider  
what both Parties say, and then let him  
judge for himself.

When these Memoirs first appeared in  
publick, I remember the Criticks in  
Tava were much divided in their Sent-  
ments about them; some found fault  
with the Style, as too inscious and af-  
fected; others censured the Digressions  
as Foreign to the Business in hand, and  
particularly the Story of Prince Maurice  
Parrot, that (to use Sir William's own  
Expression, p. 58.) spoke, and asked,  
and

the Foregoing Letter, and answered common Questions like a reasonable Creature. Lastly, the Orator sort of People were scandalized to see several Persons eminent both for their Station and Quality, and some of them still Living, treated with so much Freedom, and with so little Ceremony: adding that the Author every where appeared too full of himself, which I find is the very Character, which the French Relator of the Negotiation at Nimwegen, has been pleased to bestow upon him.

Indeed, as for the Language of the Memoirs, a Man needs but turn over half a dozen Pages to be convinced that the first Objection is just and reasonable. Every Leaf almost stands charged with Gallicisms, more or less; and indeed 'tis odd enough to see a Man of Sir William Temple's Constitution, who all along declares such an invincible Aversion to the French Nation, so fondly dotting.

An Advertisement concerning, &c.

upon their Expressions, &c. But when  
he had no necessity to use them. But at  
the same time, I confess I am of Op-  
inion, that our Dispositions are not so  
faulty, as being not un-<sup>der</sup> a just Re-  
flection, but especially in Memoirs, I have  
seen a serious Scene, more than when  
with something that is diverting and  
agreeable. As for the last Objection, I  
have nothing to say to it at present,  
since it is not improbable but that the  
following Book of Monsieur de Orléans  
may prevail with him to accept of his  
Justification. As for the Language of  
Memoirs, a Man need but turn over  
half a dozen Pages to be convinced  
that the first Objection is just and reasonable.  
~~I say that almost all the~~  
Circumstances more or less, and in-  
deed enough to see a Man of Wit  
and Temper, who is not  
un-<sup>der</sup> a just Re-  
flection, but especially in Memoirs, I have  
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